

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 003262

SIPDIS

MANILA FOR PAUL O'FRIEL
NEW DELHI FOR LAUREN HOLT

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/19/2014

TAGS: [ELAB](#) [PBTS](#) [MOPS](#) [KU](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: KUWAITI MFA SAYS GOK WILL NOT ENFORCE BAN ON
FOREIGN NATIONALS ENTERING IRAQ

REF: KUWAIT 3033 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: Ambassador Richard LeBaron for reason 1.5 (b) and (d)

[11](#). (C) During introductory meeting with MFA Chief of Protocol Walid al-Khubaizi on September 20, Khubaizi told Ambassador LeBaron that he would be meeting later that day with the Indian and Filipino Ambassadors and via conference call with the Nepali Ambassador resident in Riyadh. On instruction from the Foreign Minister, he would tell them that it was not the responsibility of the GOK to enforce their travel bans to Iraq. Khubaizi said that the GOK decision in August to enforce the bans had been made while several senior officials were out of country. Now GOK ministers viewed the decision to have Kuwaiti border officials stop Indian and Filipino workers and drivers from entering Iraq to have been "a mistake." (He alluded to pressure from Kuwaiti companies who were being hurt by the ban.) Walking the decision back was problematic, but Khubaizi would start by telling the Indian and Filipino Ambassadors that they should work with Iraqi officials and with the U.S. military regarding security concerns in Iraq, but that Kuwait would not stop third country nationals from entering Iraq.

[12](#). (C) Comment: The GOK action will complement the approaches we have made in various capitals to re-visit their Iraq travel bans. It may in some instances allow distressed contractors to move towards more normal work schedules and alleviate the mounting logistical problems created by the travel bans. However, it is not a clear fix to the problems created by the travel bans. The governments in question may have other means of dissuading their expatriate nationals from traveling to Iraq and can certainly enforce the ban on workers recruited directed from home countries. We will continue to make the point to their Embassies here that all reasonable security measures are taken to protect third-country nationals employed directly or indirectly by the U.S. military and that vital contract support for the mission in Iraq is negatively affected by the travel ban.
End comment.

[13](#). (U) Baghdad minimize considered.
LeBaron